



**Application No:** GB 0218371.3  
**Claims searched:** 1 to 21

**Examiner:** Nicola Keeley  
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**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:  
  
UK Cl (Ed.T):  
  
Int Cl (Ed.7): C23C  
  
Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
X	GB 2347686 A	(TRIKON) See especially figure 3 and page 7 lines 16-21	1-6, 9, 12, 17 and 19 at least
X	JP 2002141290 A	(HITACHI) See especially figures and WPI Accession No. 2002-586467-63	1-6, 9, 17 and 19 at least
X	JP 2002069650 A	(APPLIED MATERIALS) See especially figures and PAJ abstract	1-6, 9, 17 and 19 at least
X	US 6086677 A	(UMOTOY) See especially figure 1 and column 4 line 65 to column 5 line 2	1-6, 9, 17 and 19 at least
X	US 5624498 A	(LEE) See especially figure 3 and column 3 lines 56-64	1-6, 9, 17 and 19 at least

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.